

In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please amend claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 55 and 57, as noted below.

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for characterizing an apparently healthy individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, comprising:
obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in the individual, and if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl [[of blood]] or higher in a blood sample from the individual, then said individual has an increased risk of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, wherein the diabetic complications are selected from the group consisting of diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma, retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic neuropathy, and diabetic foot ulcers.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL [[of blood]] or higher in a blood sample from the individual.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method for characterizing an individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in the individual, wherein a level of C-reactive protein about 0.30 mg/dl [[of blood]] or higher in a blood sample from the individual establishes a first risk value,

obtaining a level of a glycosylated hemoglobin in the individual,
comparing the level of the glycosylated hemoglobin to a second predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications to establish a second risk value, and

characterizing the individual's risk profile of developing diabetes or diabetic complications based upon the combination of the first risk value and the second risk value, wherein the combination of the first risk value and second risk value establishes a third risk value different from said first and second risk values.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL [[of blood]] or higher in a blood sample of the individual.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of diabetes or reducing the risk of diabetic complications, the agent selected from the group consisting of insulin, a hypoglycemic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a lipid lowering agent, a calcium channel blocker, a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker, a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, and an angiotensin system inhibitor, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in the individual, and

if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl [[of blood]] or higher in a blood sample from the individual, then said individual will benefit from treatment with said agents,

wherein the diabetic complications are selected from the group consisting of diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma, retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic neuropathy, and diabetic foot ulcers.

22-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a hypoglycemic agent.

53-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL [[of blood]] or higher in a blood sample from the individual.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is [[an]] insulin.

58-61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an anti-inflammatory agent.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a lipid lowering agent.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a calcium channel blocker.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker.
66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor.
67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an angiotensin system inhibitor.